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Coolidge, Mary Roberts. *Chinese Immigration.* Pp. 531. Price, \$1.75. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1909.

Chinese immigrants have few defenders. Mrs. Coolidge has made a thorough study of the facts and her investigation leaves her champion of the Chinese. The discussion is careful, detailed, convincing, one that should be read by every student of immigration problems whether he agrees with all the conclusions of the author or not.

Public documents have so often been questioned as sources of information that it is not surprising to find abundant contradiction of their testimony here. Mrs. Coolidge shows that the information presented to Congress was in major part manufactured evidence. The Chinaman was made the victim of a "California for Americans" movement which had already driven out Chilenos, Mexicans and French. The outbursts of ill feeling against him were caused by economic pressures quite independent of his alleged competition with white labor. He did not take the job of the white man, but took the job the white man would not take—filled in, in labor which the white despised.

The legislation against the Chinese was inspired by the laboring class who, when periodically out of employment, due to seasonal occupations, hard times, or the completion of great railroads, blamed the Chinaman who by his adaptiveness was better able to weather the storm. Sharp and justified criticism is given our various exclusion laws and particularly their present administration. Even Californians now feel their injustice, the author asserts. "The Anti-Chinese cry no longer deceives anybody in the West. Certainly the time is not far off when the wave of Mongolian-know-nothingism will vanish." In view of recent events this is indeed sanguine. Even on the ground of assimilability the author regards the Chinaman as a desirable immigrant and good prospective citizen. He is much to be preferred to the former Irish and present Italian comers against whom every serious charge leveled at the Chinese can be justly made. Restricted immigration we should have, but one obtained by a horizontal exclusion to keep out the lower stratum, not by a perpendicular exclusion against any race.

This is one of the best studies of a race problem we have seen. It is optimistic, perhaps too optimistic at times, but the statements made are discriminating and the conclusions generally sound.

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Davidson, J., and G. A. *The Scottish Staple at Veere: A Study in the Economic History of Scotland.* Pp. xii, 453. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1909.

This volume is another illustration, and a most welcome one, of the great difference, which exists between the history of North Britain and the history of South Britain. The neglect of Scottish history in America is re-

sponsible for the strange fact that American students, working on the comparative method, whether in law, or politics or economics, are always drawing parallels or contrasts between English and French or German or Spanish or Italian conditions and neglecting the more obvious use to be made of Scottish history. This has been particularly true so far in the field of economic history.

The student of English economic history is perfectly familiar with the workings of the English staple and, if he hears of a Scottish staple, assumes it to be the same kind of thing. "The English staple was developed in order to concentrate trade and with the object of facilitating the collection of customs duties" (p. 337, 338). "It was thus to a large extent a fiscal device" (p. 339). "The object kept in view was the increase of revenue, rather than the privilege of merchants or the general welfare of trade" (p. 340). "The exclusion of foreigners from the trade was no essential feature in the system" (p. 340). "In the Scottish staple on the contrary, the attitude to the foreign trader was one of rigid exclusion. The development of the nation's trade, or rather the prosperity of the merchant classes in the royal burghs, was the object kept in view by the Convention, and any participation in trade by unfreemen, by unfree burghs, or by foreign merchants, was regarded as taking away some portion of that trade, which, in the view of the Convention was the right of freemen of the free burghs." These quotations show the essential thesis of the book and draw out a very interesting contrast between English and Scottish economic history.

But, though the Scottish staple is the main subject of the book, the authors have dealt with the whole question of the organization of Scottish trade. In doing so they have brought out the importance of the Convention of Royal Burghs and its services and drawbacks to the development of Scottish prosperity. There is nothing like this in English history. Most interesting, though not of the same importance to the student, is the account given of the life of the Scottish mercantile colony at Veere or Campvere in the Netherlands, of their church and factory, of the powers of the Conservator, and the conditions of their existence. The book is well illustrated with views of old Veere and does honor to the industry and intelligence of the late Professor John Davidson of the University of New Brunswick and of Mr. Alexander Gray, who has completed the work from Professor Davidson's notes.

H. MORSE STEPHENS.

Berkeley, Cal.

Devine, E. T. *Report on the Desirability of Establishing an Employment Bureau in the City of New York.* Pp. 238. Price, \$1.25. New York: Charities Publishing Company, 1909.

This report considers the advisability of establishing an employment bureau on a business basis, but by philanthropic men whose purpose it is to make